

## Office of Naval Research International Field Office

### Trip Report No. III

### Visit to S & T Facilities in Manila, Philippines

Dr. Douglas W. Edsall

August 13 – 14, 2001

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*These reports summarize global activities of S&T Associate Directors of the Office of Naval Research International Field Offices (ONRIFO). The complete listing of newsletters and reports are available under the authors' by-line on the ONRIFO homepage: <http://www.ehis.navy.mil/http://www.ehis.navy.mil/onrnews.htm> or ONRIFO-Asia homepage: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/onrasia/>, or by email to respective authors.*

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**Key Words:** *Philippines, S & T, Marine Science Institute (MSI), Oceanic and Littoral Affairs Group, PN (OLAG), Potential Cooperation/Collaboration Partners, USGS, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory*

#### 1. Summary

During the period August 13 - 14, visits were made to various university and governmental agencies involved in S & T activities in the Philippines. These meetings were arranged by U. S. Embassy staff for Dr. Craig Dorman's country visit. His primary goal was to assess the present status of S & T in the Philippines, the future direction and funding priorities of S & T efforts and to learn the strengths/weaknesses of the major governmental, university and private sector participants in S & T.

The Philippines do not have a robust S & T program, but they do have assets worth noting: among them are their human resources; the importance of education; and their location and multilateral ties, and thus access to other Southeast Asian countries.

The two groups involved within OAS's scope of interest in the Philippines are: The University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (MSI) and the Oceanic and Littoral Affairs Group of the Philippine Navy (OLAG).

Details of each group are given below.

## **2. Background**

Dr. Dorman's Philippine report provides his synopsis of the important political, economic, scientific and technological issues facing this island nation. The purpose of this visit, the second one this fiscal year by an ONRIFO ASIA OAS Associate Director, was to identify potential university or governmental agencies that could be engaged to participate in activities sponsored by ONR's project officers. Another option was to facilitate cooperative/collaborative efforts between scientists in the Philippine and U.S. academic or governmental agencies that have mutual research interests.

On **Monday August 13, 2001** accompanied Dr. Craig Dorman and U.S. Embassy personnel (Cdr. Bruce Kahl and/or Ms. T. Calabria, Dr. Sui) to these academic facilities:

1. University of Philippines, Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, President, discussion;
2. University of Philippines, College of Science, Diliman Campus, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Dr. Virginia D. Monje, discussion and tour; and
3. University of Philippines, Diliman Campus, The Marine Science Institute (MSI), Dr. S. Gil Jacinto, discussion.

On **Tuesday August 14, 2001** accompanied Dr. Craig Dorman and U.S. Embassy personnel (Ms. T. Calabria and Dr. Sui) to these academic and governmental facilities:

1. University of Santo Tomas, Dr. Gloria De Castro-Bernas, Dean, College of Science, Professor of Biochemistry, discussion;
2. Department of Health, Dr. Margarita M. Galon, Undersecretary of Health, Office for Standards and Regulations, discussion;
3. Oceanic and Littoral Affairs Group, Philippine Navy, working lunch;
4. National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Dr. Perla D Santos-Ocampo, President, discussion; and
5. Department of Science and Technology, Dr. Estrella F. Alabastro, Secretary, discussion.

### **3a. Highlights of Discussion**

#### **University of the Philippines, Marine Science Institute (MSI)**

The only academic group visited that is involved in marine S & T was the **University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute (MSI)**. **Dr. Gil Jacinto, Director**, presented an excellent brief on the staff, ongoing research, goals and needs of MSI. Prof. Hassan Ali, ONRASIA had visited their facility in April 2001. Dr. Jacinto therefore was aware of ONRIFO and expressed an interest in establishing closer ties.

He specifically mentioned the **need for potential ONRASIA assistance with:**

1. an upwelling study on the Pacific Ocean side related to bifurcation of the Mindanao Current;
2. an internal wave study in the Sulu Sea;
3. investigation of country's coral reefs; and

4. instruction on how to operate their “Aquashuttle” (UK gear).

In addition, Dr. Jacinto and I spoke of potential cooperation/collaboration between Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) in Palisades, NY and also with Dr. John Brock of USGS in St. Petersburg, Florida. After our meeting, I e-mailed both Dr. Purdy, Director of LDEO and Dr. John C. Brock and requested they contact Dr. Jacinto directly. LDEO is interested in exploring ways to use their marine geology/geophysics and oceanography expertise in the Philippine region and Dr. Brock is in need of access to the country’s coral reefs for his ongoing research.

#### **4a. MSI Assessment**

MSI would like a return visit from ONRIFO. Will schedule for 2002.

MSI would welcome a VSP for one of their staff to visit the manufacturer of the “Aquashuttle” for indoctrination.

Will follow progress of LDEO and USGS contacts with AMSI. Two potential VSP’s could arise: (1) visit to LDEO; and (2) visit to USGS, St. Petersburg, Florida. The LDEO visit could perhaps lead to NICOP. Visit to USGS shouldn’t involve a request for ONRIFO funds, but would assist another government agency’s work.

#### **4b. Highlights of Discussion**

##### **Philippine Navy’s Oceanic and Littoral Affairs Group (OLAG)**

This is a three-year old group of naval officers, without much experience in hydrographic surveying and related matters. Several officers will soon be receiving training out of country. This group has established contacts with Australia, Japan and Singapore and expects to have signed a MOU with NAVOCEANO in the near future. **[To date, I have been unable to find confirmation of the existence of this MOU.]**

Also discussed concept of OLAG’s cooperation/collaboration with LDEO and USGS. There was general interest in initiating contact to explore areas of possible mutual work. Both LDEO and USGS contacts were provided with an OLAG contact.

#### **4b. OLAG Assessment**

This group has a research vessel, adequate funding and a desire to collaborate with those outside of their country and in particular with the United States. There is the possibility for military/military (ONR or NRL/PN), government agency/military (USGS/PN) and academic institution/military collaboration (LDEO/PN). The potential gains for support of such collaboration are: access to data from potential ops areas; insight into their areas of interest; and establishment of working relationship with them and their bilateral or multilateral partners, especially in the South China Sea.

Suggest a return visit in 2002. Will continue to follow status of LDEO and USGS contacts with MSI and OLAG.

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